

<p style="text-align: center;">Research program: <i>“Urbanization and territorial gaps in Italy: Evidence from Program of Eradication of Malaria, Economic Policy”</i></p>
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Annex C

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Research project

The purpose of this project is to study the role of malaria in shaping contemporary development in Italy. At this purpose, Italy represents the ideal case study. First, Italy has been significantly affected by the fever for long and for this reason Italy has been one of the leading countries in the fight against malaria. Second, Italy experienced a massive eradication program in the aftermath of the WWII. Malaria, according to many spokesmen and historians, represented a significant constraint to land use, population growth and economic development and it is often cited as one of the main cause of the North-South divide. Exploiting the malaria eradication program as identifying sources together with very disaggregated data (geocoded data and municipality data) for urban population, land use, and migration, we study how malaria has differently affected population growth and productive structure across Italy.